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TAMPA MAN INDICTED FOR PRODUCTION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

Tampa, Florida - Acting United States Attorney James R. Klindt today announced the unsealing of an indictment charging Brian Wilcox, a 49-year-old resident of Tampa, with production of child pornography. According to the indictment, Wilcox used a minor to produce an image of child pornography which he transported in interstate commerce through use of his computer. The penalties Wilcox faces if convicted are a mandatory minimum of 15 years' imprisonment up to a maximum of 30 years' imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000. Wilcox was arrested today and will make his first appearance in federal court in Ocala at 4:00 p.m today.

The case was investigated by the FBI Innocent Images Task Force. This case is part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a national initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information on Project Safe Childhood, please visit

<u>www.projectsafechildhood.gov</u>. The case will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda C. Kaiser.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.